

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, new claim 9 has been added. Claims 1-9 are pending and under consideration.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,427,176 B1 (Berglund).

According to the present invention, as defined by independent claim 1, for example, when the property information read from a peripheral (for example, a serial number of a printer) does not coincide with the same property information stored in a peripheral unit manager, the property information read from the peripheral and the new address information of the peripheral (for example, a Media Access Control (MAC) address) are both stored. The above-described situation can occur when a new peripheral is replaced in a network. In such a situation, both the property information and its address are replaced in the peripheral unit manager.

According to the present invention, in addition to the above-described situation, in a second situation, when the property information read does coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, data that had been accumulated for the peripheral (for example, data including a number of sheets printed to date by a printer) and new address information for the peripheral are stored in the peripheral unit manager. The second situation can occur when a network card including a MAC address is replaced in a printer, for example. The printer remains the same, but its MAC address changes.

On page 3 of the current Office Action and on page 2 of the Advisory Action (sent to you via facsimile on April 11, 2005), the Examiner asserts that Berglund teaches the first situation. Applicants respectfully submit that Berglund is completely silent regarding the second situation. Although the Examiner alleges that Berglund teaches the present invention's operation in the first situation, according to our understanding of Berglund, it does not disclose the present invention's operation in the second situation. In other words, Berglund fails to disclose, ". . . when the property information read does coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing data being accumulated in for the peripheral unit with the new address information of the one of the peripheral units after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information," as recited in claim 1 of the present invention, for example.

In contrast to the present invention, in Berglund, when the read information matches or coincides with the stored information, that is, when no new part number is detected, the IPL simply continues. According to our reading of Berglund, it is completely silent as to storing data

being accumulated for the peripheral unit with new address information, as in the present invention. Therefore, Berglund does not teach the second situation described above.

The present invention includes the capability to operate according to the first situation and according to the second situation. Berglund does not anticipate the claim, as Berglund is not capable of operating in both of the situations described above. In other words, as Berglund is not capable of operating as the present invention does for the situation identified by the above-quoted language, claim 1 is not anticipated (claims 4 and 7 recite similar language). As dependent claims 2-3 and 5-6 depend from respective independent claims, these claims are patentable over the references for at least the reason presented above regarding the independent claims.

New claim 9 recites similar language. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable over the reference for the reasons presented above.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

14 Jul 05

By:


Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501